GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:675
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2002
BASIC PASSENGER AMENITIES
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the thrust area of Railways in 8th Plan was to provide basic passenger amenities at all stations on priority;

(b) if so, reasons for failure to eliminate deficiencies in basic amenities till date despite its commitment to the Estimate Committee to eliminate all deficiencies by 1990-1991;

(c) if so, reasons for not providing basic passenger amenities on various railway zones despite allocation and availability of funds;

(d) whether funds allocated were not utilized in full; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a) to (c) It has always been Railways` constant endeavour to provide basic passenger amenities at stations. Railways had replied to the Estimates Committee (1988-1989) - Eighth Lok Sabha that it should be possible to wipe out the deficiencies in Basic Amenities, i.e., waiting halls, benches, suitable lighting, drinking water facilities, latrines, suitable platforms, booking arrangements and shady trees by 30.03.1991.

The basic amenities, as were defined in 1990-91, were provided at the stations and it is not correct to state that commitment made to the Committee was not fulfilled. While the basic amenities in qualitative terms have been made available at nearly all stations, the deficiencies, wherever existing, are in quantitative terms. For example, a station is counted as deficient in drinking water arrangement if 10 taps are available as against norms of 12 taps at a particular category of station though the arrangement for drinking water is available. Railways are endeavouring to eliminate such cases also.

(d) to (e) The funds could not be fully utilized in some years for various reasons, such as slow progress of works due to contractual problems, delay in finalisation of plans & estimates, difficulty in executing work under traffic conditions and in the last couple of years due to regulation on plan expenditure imposed in the course of the year on account of lesser generation of internal resources.